

THE COLONNADE

The Official Student Newspaper of Georgia College

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gcsucolonnade.com

The South sways Irishman to GC



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Ben McClurg playing in a match at GC against Morehouse on Feb. 1, 2019

Hannah Wildes Staff Writer

His home is over 3,800 miles away, but freshman Ben McClurg jumped at the opportunity to play in the states and wanted to “put pen to paper as soon as possible.”

McClurg, a business major with a minor in marketing, hails from Belfast, Northern Ireland and is in his first year on the GC tennis team.

Before McClurg chose GC he had other options in Illinois, Detroit and

Michigan. However, going up North was not ideal, so when he got connected to the players and coach of the men’s tennis team here, McClurg did his research. He was able to speak to some of the players and other GC students to learn about the team as well as the college campus. He said that talking to them made his choice much easier because they told him how good it is here and helped ease his doubts.

“I didn’t really fancy going up North,” McClurg said. “Whereas coach [Barsby] then came up after and started to speak to

me, and I researched the area, I researched Milledgeville. It was nice, I spoke to some guys on the team beforehand, and I spoke to some Americans beforehand, and they kind of sold it to me. They told me how good it was.”

Men’s tennis coach Steve Barsby found McClurg through the recruiting service after an email from McClurg put him on the radar.

“We just got to talking back and forth,” Barsby said about the beginning of the recruitment process. “I think we Skyped twice, and I enjoyed the conversation and thought he’d fit in well

with us. You’re trying to find someone who fits into the model because there are some guys who come and all they care about is tennis, and there’s some guys who all they care about is school, and we always want someone who does both.”

Barsby said that McClurg is the right fit for the team.

“He’s come here, and he’s brought a great attitude,” Barsby said. “I’ve never caught him in a bad mood, and that’s going to help you in life more than anything.”

SEE **MCCLURG** | PAGE 7

Numbers of Hoco

Ava Leone Staff Writer

GC’s 2019 Millywood-themed Homecoming costed the school approximately \$100,000 to feature guest artists, run live events and give students the positive break they needed.

“It’s a unifying time for the college and for students to have a great time and maybe for a couple of days forget about those things [troubling recent events] and enjoy themselves,” said Jonathan Meyer, assistant director of business operations. The combined organizations of Campus Life, SGA and CAB budgeted approximately \$100,000 to pay for the expenses over the week. Over half of the budget went toward the Friday night concert.

The Homecoming celebrations started on Wednesday night with award-winning hypnotist Sailesh. The performance, sponsored by CAB, was designed to put select audience members in a trance.

The Brick offered up a \$100 gift card on Thursday to the winning team of the Cupid Competition archery tournament to celebrate Valentine’s Day, which was won by Team Fort House made up of Ben Branch, Michael Campagna, Josh Durand, Luke Walsh and

our own Editor-in-Chief Steven Walters. The tournament was sponsored by the Wellness and Recreation Center. Smaller prizes were also offered throughout the day for participation in the event.

Attendance spiked for the Homecoming Concert on Friday Night. Battle of the bands winner Champagne Lane opened for Jojo and Moon Taxi. Moon Taxi previously performed for the Deep Roots festival in 2015.

Meyer said approximately 2,500 tickets were sold out of the 5,000 available, a stark contrast to last year’s sold out show. Although the show did not sell out, Meyer said he is happy with the change in genre this year because it allowed for musical diversity.

“Trying to find artists that appeal to everybody, that everybody can get excited about, is almost impossible because everyone has a variety of different preferences and likes and dislikes,” Meyer said. “Hopefully, the 2,500 students that purchased tickets came, and this was their first experience, and it was a great one, so maybe they’ll come out again.”

Saturday showcased multiple events, starting with Tent City at 9 a.m. Students and community members participated in the social gathering

SEE **HOCO** | PAGE 2

Couples who double as colleagues at GC

Madi Brilhart Staff Writer

GC employs several married couples within various departments. While each pair has a unique reason that brought them to Milledgeville, they all have one thing in common: their spouses double as their colleague.

One such married couple are Karl and Susan Manrodt. Karl, a logistics professor, and Susan, an accounting professor, dated and married 37 years ago after being introduced by a mutual friend.

The Manrodt’s now have three children, ages 26, 21 and 18. Sarah, the 21-year-old, spent two years at GC before transferring to Kennesaw State University, and Ben, the 18-year-old, is currently dual-enrolled at GC for his senior year of high school.

GC is the third university that the Manrodt’s have worked at together. They began at the Univer-

sity of Tennessee, followed by Georgia Southern University and finally GC.

“We really like GC students,” Karl said. “They seem to come well-prepared, they’re polite, they’re direct...good soft skills. I really like being here.”

Although the Manrodt’s work in different departments, a fact that Karl jokingly says “helps out a lot,” the two do experience some overlap in their professional lives.

“We sit in the same college of business faculty meetings, and we have colleagues in common, and I think, for the most part, that’s a really good thing,” Susan said.

Justin and Kimberly Roush also share their work lives along with their personal lives. Economics and marketing professors, respectively, the Roush’s have known each other for around 10 years and have been married for three and a half years. They also have a 21-month-old son named Carson.

The couple met through

a mutual friend during their sophomore year of undergraduate school and dated briefly before parting ways and finishing school. Three years later, however, in graduate school, the Roush’s reunited through the same mutual friend and decided to try again.

“We had two first dates,” Kimberly said. Kimberly, who originally worked in advertising, came to GC after her husband was hired as a lecturer of economics.

“I love being in the classroom,” Kimberly said. “It’s fun to be teaching what I was doing, and I still get the opportunity to do client projects, which still gives me that connection to the industry.”

Despite being new parents who work full-time, the Roush’s said they have had a positive experience balancing their lives at home with their lives at work.

“GC is very special,” Justin said. “The faculty, on average, get along really well, and so that can

mean we kind of look out for each other. It’s easy to have a kid and be a professor at GC.”

Jeff Turner and Stephanie McClure, professors of outdoor education and sociology, respectively, experienced a more serendipitous journey to GC.

Quoting Joseph Campbell, McClure said she believes that “You



Courtesy of Kimberly Roush

The Roush’s have known each other for over 10 years

SEE **COUPLES** | PAGE 10

NEWS



PROTEST AGAINST ANIMAL SHELTER

A downtown protest emerged against the treatment of animals at the Baldwin County Animal Shelter.

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SPORTS



GC BASKETBALL EYES POSTSEA

Men’s and women’s basketball squads prepare for a postseason run.

Pg. 8

ARTS & LIFE



MARY JEAN LAND PLANS TO RETIRE

After celebrating her 35th year at GC, Mary Jean Land said she will be retiring in July.

Pg. 12

NEWS

Gas leak evacuates campus

Lindsay Stevens
News Editor
&
Amy Lynn McDonald
Asst. News Editor

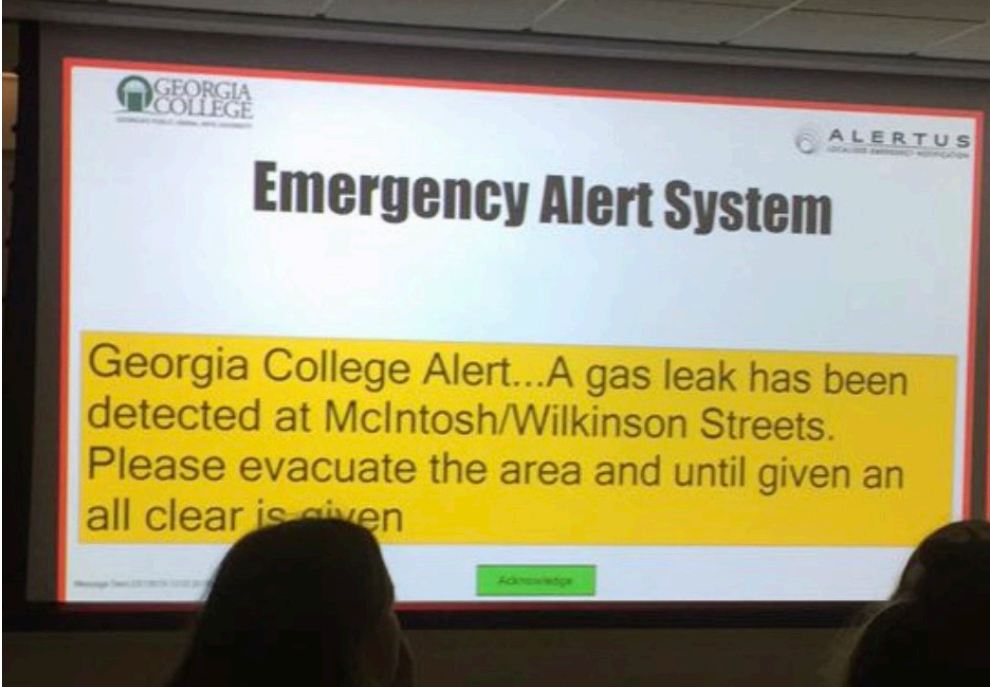
GC received a call that a gas line was hit near campus on McIntosh Street just before noon on Feb. 21, and 10 minutes later students received the first

of several notifications advising them to evacuate Bell, Porter and Herty halls. “Somehow GC overrode my statistics professor’s Power Point and put a display on the screen,” said freshman Daria Brown, a psychology and criminal justice major.

GC sent out an all-clear at 12:27 p.m., immediately resuming normal class schedule. No injuries were reported.

After the first alert, students flooded out of A&S,

Bell and Herty in confusion, with hundreds of students congregating around the Bobcat head on Front Campus and the fountain area. “Most of us didn’t know exactly where the streets were,” Brown said. “I knew be cause I live [in Bell], but a lot of the other kids were looking it up on a map trying to figure it out.” The Colonnade will continue to update the story as we get more information.



Courtesy of Emma Lammers

A GC alert took over the screens of smartboards across campus on Feb. 21

MILLEDGEVILLE CRIME

FEB. 27

COLLEGE STATION CAR BREAK-INS

ON FEB. 20, OFFICERS RESPONDED TO A CALL ABOUT TWO PEOPLE RUMMAGING THROUGH A CAR. THE SUSPECTS FLED THE SCENE AND THE OFFICER LEARNED THAT THE CAR WAS UNLOCKED. AN EXPENSIVE ITEM WAS STOLEN FROM THE CAR.

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS METH

POLICE WERE RESPONDING TO A CALL RELATING TO A DOMESTIC DISPUTE ON FEB. 22, WHEN METHAMPHETAMINE WAS DISCOVERED.

PROSPECTS CAR BREAK-INS

ON FEB. 24, POLICE WERE CALLED TO PROSPECTS APARTMENT COMPLEX IN REFERENCE TO A CAR BREAK-IN.

STOLEN CREDIT CARD

ON FEB. 24, A MAN CAME INTO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT STATING HE HAD LOST HIS WALLET THE PREVIOUS SATURDAY AT THE TAVERN. THE MAN STATED THAT HE LATER DISCOVERED HIS ACCOUNT HAD BEEN OVERDRAWN.

Rachael Alesia / Art Director and compiled by Lindsay Stevens / News Editor

HOMEcoming 2019 BY THE NUMBERS

ATTENDANCE

- SAILESH THE HYPNOTIST: APPROXIMATELY 120
- CUPID ARCHERY SKILLS COMPETITION & ARCHERY TAG TOURNAMENT: APPROXIMATELY 100 PARTICIPATED
- HOMECOMING CONCERT: APPROXIMATELY 2,500 TICKETS SOLD; 2,000 IN ATTENDANCE
- NPHC PLAZA UNVEILING: APPROXIMATELY 100
- PARADE: APPROXIMATELY 300 PARTICIPATED; AT LEAST 1,000 SPECTATORS
- TENT CITY: 42 GROUPS REGISTERED, APPROXIMATELY 2,000 ATTENDED
- BASKETBALL GAMES: APPROXIMATELY 2,000-3,000 IN ATTENDANCE
- TASTE OF MILLEDGEVILLE: APPROXIMATELY 50
- REUNITE CELEBRATION: APPROXIMATELY 40-50

MONEY

JOJO: \$20,500 MOON TAXI: \$40,000 CONCERT TOTAL: \$100,000

ALUMNI

APPROXIMATELY 70 ALUMNI PURCHASED TICKETS TO THE CONCERT

APPROXIMATELY 150 ALUMNI CAME BACK TO GC AND PARTICIPATED IN ONE OR MORE OF THE EVENTS.

Rachael Alesia / Art Director

Hoco
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

designed to hype up the upcoming basketball games. The Homecoming parade attracted over 1,000 spectators who gathered candy thrown from decorated floats and cars. The king, queen, duke and duchess contenders flaunted dresses and suits atop their floats to gain popularity for the crowning ceremony later that day. Hannah Gibson, a member of ADPi, won queen, and Lainie Cox, from KD, won duchess. Cedric Norris won king, and Jonah

Gunderson won duke, both members of ATO. “Now that I have this platform, I plan to use it to show others how to lead with kindness,” said Gibson, a senior exercise science major. “Taking that extra moment to do something kind for another person or even say something kind can change their entire day, even their whole week.” GC’s women’s and men’s basketball teams both lost their games against Augusta. The women’s team lost with a score of 78-55 while the men’s team lost with a score of 78-55. Both teams plan to work on their defense and rebounds as a come back for the remainder of the season.

“I think that there should be even more people going to Homecoming and that the basketball game[s] should be more advertised,” said graduate student William Hamilton, who is pursuing a public administration degree. “I think that the athletes have taken a back seat to everything and that it should be [a] more forward seat.” Meyer plans to collect feedback from students to better tailor next year’s Homecoming to students’ preferences. “We value feedback,” Meyer said. “We can’t know what ya’ll are thinking without y’all speaking up and voicing your perspectives and opinions on things.”

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 The Colonnade

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If you’re interested in writing for The Colonnade, email thegcsucolonnade@gmail.com or attend a pitch meeting on the following Mondays at 6:30 p.m. in MSU 128:

Feb. 18	April 1
Feb. 25	April 8
March 25	April 15

The Colonnade is looking for staff writers, editors, designers, videographers, and more for the 2019-2020 school year. Contact thegcsucolonnade@gmail.com for more.

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Office: MSU 128
thegcsucolonnade@gmail.com
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02.27.2019

NEWS

GC education majors celebrate Read Across America Day

Nicole Hazlett
Staff Writer

Children are planning their outfits and picking their favorite craft for Read Across America Day on March 2, the day of famed children's author Dr. Suess' birthday. Elementary and even some middle grade classes are get students excited about reading by allowing the students to dress up the entire week and read fun Dr. Suess books with their friends. Schools are also inviting older students to dress up and read with younger students for Read Across America Week. Read Across America Day was founded by the National Education Association. According to NEA's Read Across America Day mission statement, "In our diverse and complex society, students need books that provide both windows and mirrors if we are going to create more readers, writ-

ers and people who feel included and recognized and who understand that the world is far richer than just their experiences alone." Classrooms around Putnam and neighboring districts are having a spirit week to commemorate the occasion. For some that is just dressing up on March 2. For others, every day of the week is a different theme and their outfit should match accordingly. "I'm at Putnam County Primary School in Eatonton, Georgia, in a first grade classroom," said senior Courtney Parker, an early childhood education major. "For that day we are having someone from the high school or middle school come read Dr. Seuss books to our class and do a craft with our students." This is a fun way for students to not only engage in a reading environment but to also see older kids get excited about reading as well. "We are super excited to have them because

we know our students will love it," Parker said. Reading and writing are also essential objectives for students. "There are some kids that love to read, and those are the ones that are always picking out a book every time they get a chance," said junior Cameron Shuler, another early childhood education major. "Then there are some students that already have it in their head that they can't read." In order to combat this type of thinking, teachers try to get creative in the classroom. "It could work out that we do a book reading and do math that goes along with the books," said senior Lindsey Thompson, a middle grades education major. Read Across America Day encourages all children to get involved in reading. The day brings something fun for the kids to do while also learning.

Ask Thunder AI debuts

Miya Banks
Staff Writer

After almost a year of development, GC's first interactive FAQ recently went live, enabling users on GC's website to ask any question about the university at any time of the day. The project is the brainchild of former chief of information officer Robert Orr. The initial investment in the technology was \$5,000, which Orr funded. The FAQ is an AI, or artificial intelligence, named Ask Thunder. The service is available on GC's website in the top right corner as a link labeled "Chat-FAQ." "Our efforts were to help provide quick and accurate answers to save someone from having to call or email for the answer," said Cindy Bowen, director of operations in IT. Maria Gordon, an administrative assistant in the IT department, said she hopes the technology will give current and prospective students, parents and high school counselors convenient and quick access to commonly asked questions. "This will allow for assistance outside of normal business operating hours and decrease the amount of email, phone calls and other

inquiries," Gordon said. SGA's chief of staff Nathan Graham said he hopes to see the technology catch on. "Rather than trying to sit there and search for it or Google it, they'll just go, 'Hey, this thing can help me answer this,'" Graham said. "[Questions] like 'Where can I pay a parking ticket?'" Although its Q&A database is not yet complete, Ask Thunder can already answer a variety of questions, often including helpful overviews or links to webpages with more information. If it doesn't have an answer, it provides a phone number and a link to GC's directory. "Some of the questions do not have an answer in our database," Bowen said. "We are working with university communications and campus departments to get answers to submitted questions. As we close these gaps, the service gets better." Development for the project began in July 2018. The first task was to find an affordable AI solution, a task Bowen said was given to director of system administration Jamie DeFoor. By October, the system was ready for content, and Orr began working with IT and several other departments to build the Q&A database. At this time, both Gordon and the SGA became involved in the project. "We collaboratively scheduled a series of in-

formational sessions where we introduced the concept of Ask Thunder, gathered feedback on content and showed students how they can Feed Thunder at any time through our website," Gordon said. "The students who provided feedback were excited about the concept and thought it would be beneficial to both current students, as well as prospective students and parents of both populations." Feed Thunder is a portal on the GC's Ask Thunder webpage where students can submit questions and answers to the system. Learning AI technology, however, can be abused. Fortunately, the IT department took this into consideration during development. "The misuse of other systems is the main reason we wanted to begin with the database type of AI we are using," Bowen said. "Our AI learns to provide the best answer from answers crafted by university personnel. Since our AI doesn't learn from the questions, we are able to avoid the pitfall of it learning 'bad habits.'" The team crafted a set response for inappropriate content: "As the mascot for GC, I try to always demonstrate the three R's: Reason, Respect and Responsibility and will ignore your entry." The response explains why an answer will not be provided while also remaining professional.



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NEWS

Coping with grief

Amy Lynn McDonald
Asst. News Editor

Plans for an upcoming semester typically include things like Spring Break, a drive to Atlanta for a Braves game or a formal dance. Rarely will plans include a painful breakup or the loss of a loved one. However, these events are a natural part of life and the emotions and experiences that come with them are just as natural. After a painful loss, there is a period of time characterized by a range of emotions, including sadness and anger, as the grieving process takes place. “While grief is most often associated with death, people grieve over many kinds of loss,” said Steve Wilson, director of Counseling Services. “For example, the end of a relationship, loss of a job, loss of a pet or loss of an aspect of one’s identity.” Keila Kolden, a sophomore pre-nursing student, lost her grandmother the day after she moved in for sorority recruitment her freshman year. She said her grandmother’s

death had a profound impact on her life as her grandmother had been a guiding force in her life. “I was super angry, and I felt really alone,” Kolden said. “I couldn’t understand why everyone was so happy and that life was still going on when I felt like my whole world stopped.” Grieving can affect a student’s emotional, social, physical and academic well-being. “Grief can become a preoccupying thought, making it hard for a student to focus,” said Emily May, the director of First Baptist Church of Milledgeville chapter of GriefShare, a faith-based support group for individuals who are grieving the death of a loved one. “People also tend to isolate themselves when they are grieving, putting important relationships at risk.” May explained that these relationships can be important in processing grief. Talking to trusted individuals such as a close friend, clergy or a professional counselor can help lighten the burden of grief and aid in walking through the range of emotions and questions that arise throughout the journey.

Grief can also have physical symptoms, such as a loss of appetite and insomnia that could deeply impact a student’s health. In her well-known research, Elizabeth Kubler-Ross condensed her studies into the five stages of grief: denial, anger bargaining, depression and acceptance. These stages are sometimes misquoted by well-meaning friends of the grieving with comments like, “you went through the stages out of order,” or “hat you’re feeling right now isn’t one of the stages of grief,” making the person grieving feel guilty for his or her experiences or making the person angry at the lack of understanding from others. Each person grieves differently and can experience any number of these stages in any order. The time period for grieving differs based on the type of loss and the individual experiencing it. “We live in a pretty fast paced world in which we tend to move onto the next thing pretty quickly,” said Director of the Counseling Center Stephen Wilson.. “This can make the grieving person feel like they should be over the loss. The reality, though, is that grieving can last any length of time.”

RESOURCES FOR GRIEF

- 1 WWW.WHATSYOURGRIEF.COM FOR HEALTHY COPING STRATEGIES AND INFORMATION ON HELPING A FRIEND GRIEVE
- 2 COUNSELING SERVICES AT [478-445-5331](tel:478-445-5331) TO SPEAK WITH A PROFESSIONAL TO HELP PROCESS A LOSS
- 3 WWW.GRIEFSHARE.ORG TO FIND A LOCAL FAITH-BASED SUPPORT GROUP FOR DEATH-RELATED GRIEF

Rachael Alesia / Art Director

Chair of the psychology department Lee Gillis encourages people walking through grief to grieve conscientiously, acknowledging sadness and honoring the relationship that was formed between the individual and the thing or person lost. Honoring things in the past is a healthy coping strategy and a way to move into the future. In some situations, unhealthy coping strategies,

such as self-medicating with alcohol or other substances, can take root and create more issues outside of the original grief. “At GriefShare, we provide healthy coping mechanisms and encourage people to move forward, versus just move on,” May said. “It’s the difference between carrying a memory and staying stuck in pain.” Healthy coping mechanisms can look different depending on the individual. For some, it could be

reading religious texts, or for others, it could be working out more. For Kolden, she found comfort in writing a letter to her grandmother after her death, telling her how much she loved and missed her. “Grief is hard, and there’s some days where the hurt feels like it’ll never end, but other days where you think of them and just smile at the memories,” Kolden said.

Student employees are mandatory reporters

Samuel Tucker
Staff Writer

All GC employees are mandatory reporters under Title IX; however, some student employees are unsure how far these requirements extend into their lives. Maegan Stephens, a Spanish and liberal studies double major, is a student employee who works as a student assistant in the honors office, a supplemental instruction leader at the Learning Center and a student ambassador. She says being a mandatory reporter and a student employee comes with a grey area. Stephens is required to report sexual assaults when she’s working, but what about when she is not working? “If I had a friend come to me with information regarding [sexual assault], and I’m not in the office or on the clock, am I required to report it because I’m hired by the university both on and off the job?” Stephens said. “It’s kind of a grey area, and I’m not exactly sure where I fall.” Cyndi Johnson, the equity compliance investigator at the GC office of legal affairs, says the USG has outlined requirements in their sexual misconduct policy that advise all employees

of GC to report any sexual assaults they hear about. “In accordance with the USG 4.1.7 Sexual Misconduct Policy ‘When sexual misconduct does occur, all members of the USG community are strongly encouraged to report it promptly through the procedures outlined in this Policy,’” Johnson said. “The purpose of this Policy is to ensure uniformity throughout the USG in reporting and addressing sexual misconduct.” When students are hired as employees of the university, they must complete a training session that covers FERPA and Title IX policy. GC Human Resources requires that all student employees must complete this training to know what to do in case a student is sexually assaulted. If a student employee is alerted while they are on duty to a sexual assault that happened to a student, the student employee is required to report it to the immediate supervisor, and the information goes to the Title IX office. Unlike community advisers who are mandatory reporters whether they are on or off duty, student employees have designated hours where they are employed by the campus,

with the rest of their time being regular students. Rachel Miller, a nursing major, works as a student assistant at the payroll office. She said she does not remember being given clarification about being a mandatory reporter during her orientation. “Nobody has clarified if I am or I am not a mandatory reporter even when I am not working,” Miller said. Professors here at GC are also mandatory reporters, regardless of whether they are in or out of the classroom. Alesia Liles, an assistant professor of criminal justice, said she thinks the rules for being a mandatory reporter can be harmful to the students in an emotional way. “It’s a difficult balance because we know that most survivors of sexual assault will immediately tell at least one person,” Liles said. “If you’re a student employee and someone discloses [a sexual assault] to you because they feel comfortable with you, it can feel like a betrayal of their trust because you’re mandated to tell, but at the same time, is that person comfortable enough to end up talking to someone else?”

Teacher Appreciation Week

[Dwayne Peterson] makes class a flipped experience so we do a lot of activities and hands on things in class and read outside of class and get our questions answered through the activities. I like that he makes class more of a discussion than a lecturing at you. He’ll answer questions without making you feel belittled.



Hannah Hair, freshman business major

[Dr. Alfred Meade] is really kind and tells the best stories. He’s a tough teacher, he expects a lot out of us, it pushes you to be better, without being you have to be the best. I’ve talked to him about research programs I’ve wanted to get involved with and he told me to explore and gives really good advice about stuff like that. He’s inspiring.



Eden Grasa, freshman biology major

[Dr. James Winchester’s] classes require a lot of reading and writing, but he is always willing to work with you one on one. I can remember the first time I met him, when I was visiting as a senior in high school. After hearing how much writing was required in his classes I was intimidated, but once I was a GCSU student and enrolled in his class he helped me to build confidence and skill as a writer.



Nick Skowronek, junior philosophy major

“[Katie Whipple] cares about her students and she wants you to do well. She’s very good about helping you out if you need help, and you can go to her for class stuff or life stuff. When it comes to her style of [music therapy], I aspire to be like her, especially when she works with kids. I aspire to have her passion for what she does. She absolutely loves her job and you can tell.”



Annabeth Rafffield, junior music therapy major

NEWS

Domestic violence happens on campus

Samuel Tucker
Staff Writer

The phrase “domestic violence” usually prompts an image of a married couple fighting, but there is a more appropriate phrase for students at GC: intimate partner violence. Intimate partner violence is defined as physical, emotional and verbal abuse from any person the victim has a close relationship with.

Assistant professor of criminal justice Alesa Liles said the phrase “domestic violence” is being used less frequently in favor of “intimate partner violence” because it covers more relationship dynamics. “It may not occur in the house, and it may not occur between people who are married. It can occur between a boyfriend and a girlfriend, a girlfriend and a girlfriend and even two friends,” Liles said. “If the

relationship becomes close, and one person becomes emotionally abusive to the other person where one person doesn’t have any personal space and they become abusive—that is intimate partner violence.” There are many different behaviors that could potentially fall under the definition of intimate partner violence. Compared to the abuse commonly associated with domestic violence, intimate partner violence

encompasses the abusive behaviors that might up to a more serious offense. Emily Brookshire, the victim’s service coordinator at the Women’s Center, warned against certain behaviors and actions that could potentially lead to a dangerous relationship with a partner. “What’s hard to notice are the pre-domestic violence behaviors that all go in to that crime, but they’re building up to what can potentially be physical abuse,” Brookshire said. “Stalking behaviors, mental manipulation and emotional abuse are harder to spot on a college campus.” Stalking is a common behavior exhibited by abusers, and the prevalence of social media has made it easier for people to always know where somebody is or what they are doing. The proximity of college campuses to students’ places of residence has also made it easier for stalkers to corner victims around campus or on their commutes to class. The more difficult behaviors to pinpoint are mental and emotional abuse, as the victim may interpret certain behaviors as expressions of love. Mental manipulation is a tactic used by abusers to guilt partners

into staying in the relationship, even if the relationship is harmful or toxic. “If someone says something like, ‘If you leave me, you’ll ruin my life,’ or ‘I’m going to kill myself,’ from anyone of any gender, that’s manipulative behavior,” said Sabrina Hom, an assistant professor of philosophy and the coordinator of the women’s and gender studies program. Dramatized versions of relationships on TV can be seen as normal to some people, but these depictions often paint emotional abuse in a romantic light. In the “Twilight” series, the controlling and obsessive nature of Edward Cullen towards the protagonist Bella is a prime example of pop culture fantasizing a toxic relationship. Going through another person’s phone or personal belongings, guiltng a person into spending less time with other people and being persistent with advances even when a person has not expressed interest or said “no” are also examples of manipulative behaviors. GC offers a variety of options victims can take against people exhibiting abusive behavior. Reporting to Title IX is one option for handling interpersonal violence, sexual

assaults and rape where students file an official report and have a sanctioned hearing. This route is usually taken in very severe cases, but there are other actions students can take to promote their personal safety. If students live in residence halls, they can report a person to a CA for trespassing when they show signs of stalking. A no-contact is an order from GC filed through Title IX which can apply to specific places, such as the residence hall, or across all of campus, restricting student the student from making any sort of contact with another student anywhere on GC property. This can also apply to students off campus who want to prevent another student from contacting them through email, phone, text messaging or social media. Students given a no-contact should comply with the order or risk further conduct charges being filed. The Women’s Center on campus also has staff members and resources available for students who need assistance going through with these actions as well as contacting GC Public Safety to file restraining orders against other students through the legal system in Baldwin county.

DOMESTIC ABUSE STATS

BASED ON THE NATIONAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOTLINE:

1 IN 3 COLLEGE WOMEN SAY THEY HAVE BEEN IN AN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIP

1,082 GC WOMEN WILL STATISTICALLY BE VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE BY THE TIME THEY LEAVE COLLEGE.

ONLY 36 INTERPERSONAL VIOLENCE SURVIVORS SERVED AT THE WOMEN'S CENTER IN 2018.

Rachael Alesia / Art Director

Students protest Baldwin County Animal Shelter

Natalie Sadler
Staff Writer

Peaceful protesters gathered in front of the Baldwin County courthouse on Tuesday, Feb. 19, to protest recent euthanasia decisions at the Baldwin County Animal Shelter. Despite the rain, protesters packed into a county commissioner meeting to voice their concerns. Two dogs at the Baldwin County Animal Shelter were euthanized on Feb. 13. The dogs, Jacqueline and Luca, had overstayed their five-day stray hold. However, Luca was pending a rescue transfer, and Jacqueline’s owner, Matthew Griffin, planned to pick her up that afternoon. After BCAS announced the decision on the “Friends of Baldwin County Animal Shelter” Facebook page, many community members were outraged. Milledgeville resident, Allyse Brantley, a BCAS and Animal Rescue Foundation volunteer, organized the “Supporters for Change” event to channel public dissatisfaction into positive change. “I wanted to help spread the word about the upcoming meeting, and after the two dogs were euthanized, it was pertinent to have as many attend as possible,” Brantley said. “A handful of people have been consistently going to

the meetings voicing their concerns with the commissioners and manager, and they needed support.” The protest outside lasted for an hour, and demonstrators held signs of BCAS euthanized dogs. The protest was then moved inside the courthouse for the bi-monthly county commissioner meeting. County employees passed out press release statements about the euthanasia, which detailed the positive changes that Baldwin county has made at the shelter during the last 14 months. Some of these changes include the steps toward the shelter relocation to the old Baldwin county jail as well as a Petsmart agreement for animal adoption events. The press release read: “Our Animal Control Director followed long-standing procedures when he euthanized two dogs. We have heard from volunteers and others who want to see changes to those procedures, and we are considering suggestions already provided.” Pam Peacock, one of the “Supporters for Change,” questioned where the long-standing procedures were posted. Near the end of the meeting, Peacock and two other animal advocates addressed their complaints to the county commissioners. “This county has an eth-

ical obligation to its citizens to have procedures in place concerning issues such as euthanization, adoption or owner reclaims,” Peacock said. “Whatever avenue of communication the county is going to use to notify the public of animals in the shelter should be followed as stated. The lines of communication between the public, animal control and the shelter are inadequate and are in urgent need of repair.” Peacock suggested that a panel should be made of at least three individuals to make euthanasia decisions. Robyn Register and Laura Morris spoke next, and both of them agreed with her suggestion of a three person panel. “You need to have three people in a conference,” Register said. “One person should never be able to decide whether something lives or dies.” Morris said that she has tried to meet with commissioners for almost a year about a list of shelter agenda items, but after an initial meeting, she never received a response. “We’re trying to address this as responsible, mature grownups,” Morris said. “Yet there was no interest in having help. We were willing to work as an advisory committee under Carlos Tobar as our leader, and we got nothing.” After the meeting, coun-



Lexie Baker / Staff Photographer
Protesters stand outside the Milledgeville capital building on Feb. 19

ty manager Carlos Tobar addressed his opinions on the three-person panel. “It’s a procedure, [so] it’s up to me,” Tobar said. “It’s not an ordinance or policy. I think [the panel] makes sense.” For county procedures, Tobar makes the decision, but for an ordinance or policy change, a public hearing is required. However, Tobar said that Greg Hill, the animal control manager, followed current procedures. “The procedures that I reviewed, it [euthanasia decision] was at his sole discretion,” Tobar said. “The reason for that is to make sure there’s not a break in the communication.” Tobar also said that Jac-

queline’s euthanasia could have been avoided if Griffin had made contact with the shelter instead of volunteer rescue and adoption coordinator Ashton Branch. “In terms of the process that is in place, there was never any contact with the shelter,” Tobar said. “Typically, if you contact Ashton, that means the animal is already a part of the rescue group. This particular animal was in our shelter under our care, so [Griffin] should have contacted the shelter. If he would have contacted the shelter, we probably would have done something different.” BCAS protesters hope to improve communication at the shelter to

avoid situations like this in the future. However, change will take time. “Change doesn’t happen overnight,” Brantley said. “The updated policies will help insure this doesn’t happen again.” Citizens can stay updated on procedures via the “Supporters for Change” Facebook group where Brantley will post updates on future commissioner meetings, changes at the shelter, spay/neuter events, adoption events and ways to volunteer. Protester Kim Griffin summed up the goal of the event: “Let’s center on the important thing, good care to animals, which simulates the good care of our community.”

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SPORTS

Spaniard plans to pursue master's after undergrad

Alec Dubois
Staff Writer

Paula Garrigas, an international student hailing from Barcelona, Spain, is one of the star players on GC's women's tennis team, being cited by faculty as one of the main factors that brought the team to the Peach Belt Tournament.

Now in her second season at GC, Garrigas said she looks forward to playing as well in 2019 as she did last season when she

racked up an impressive 30-12 record. Her singles play was also notable, winning 18 of her 20 matches over the same time period.

"I'm really excited for the season," Garrigas said. "Hopefully we will do as well as we did last year. We have a pretty good team, so I am hopeful."

As a rising star in Spain, she reached her highest national ranking of No. 120 before coming to the U.S. to compete. Garrigas initially began college in New Orleans before becoming a Bobcat.

"I'm a transfer, so I was in New Orleans for two years and then I decided to come here," Garrigas said. "GC was the best offer I got at the time I also talked with the athletes on the team and asked how was the coach because I was really concerned about that, and they told me he was super nice."

Steve Barsby, head coach for the women's and men's tennis programs at GC, was quick to praise the contributions that Garrigas has made to the team.

"Paula has been a great

asset to our team over the past year and a half," Barsby said. "She has been a good team leader and put up an amazing amount of wins for the team. Paula was one of the main reasons we made it to the Peach Belt Tournament final in 2018 with her consistent play, and I am looking forward to her delivering again this year."

Garrigas said she has built close relationships on the team and is grateful for the strong fit she has found on campus.

"This is my fourth semester, and it's been great,"

Garrigas said. "Everyone is super nice and really friendly. I feel like everyone is so close here."

Garrigas is part of an increasing trend amongst foreign student athletes.

"Back home we don't have university team sports, and I didn't want to give up tennis or my studies, so I wanted to do both, and my agency helped me to find a great place," Garrigas said.

According to the National Collegiate Athletic Association, there are currently 17,000 student athletes from other countries

among the roughly 480,000 students that participate in NCAA sports. Roughly 3.5 percent of student athletes in the U.S are international.

"I'm going to graduate after my summer class, so in June, and I'm going to go back home [trying] to get my master's degree," Garrigas said. "I'm applying right now...I really want to get my masters in event planning. I'm a management major right now, but I really want to get in that field."



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Paula Garriga stands outside the Embassy of the U.S. in Madrid in 2015



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Paula Garriga plays in a singles match against Brenau University on Feb. 8

McClurg

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and that's going to help you in life more than anything. I really enjoy him on the bus, with the team and at all the events; he's what we want in a player right now."

McClurg said that he had been to Georgia before visiting family friends that live in Peachtree City, so he was looking forward to coming to the state and was already accustomed to drastic changes in weather.

"When it got close to Christmas, it was better because it was just getting colder, and I was used to it," McClurg said about the weather in Milledgeville. "The weather now is like perfect because it's cold and it's wet, it's kind of like home. The weather and the heat was the biggest thing for me to get used to."

McClurg first picked up a racket and played tennis around the age of six, but he did not begin to play seriously until he was nine.

"It was kind of a babysitting thing," McClurg said. "My parents worked, and they had to give me something to do while they were in the office, so they just sent me off to play tennis. I went to tennis camps over the summer, and I enjoyed it, so I kept it up."

The heat is turned up in the states compared to the competition back in McClurg's hometown. He said that competition and the level here is 10 times higher as well as more professional. The weight rooms, facilities and tennis courts were all on a much bigger scale than what he was used to.

McClurg also faced other major changes and adjustments in moving from Ireland to the U.S.. He said that everyone in the South is very nice and "accommodating," but that the food here is not as great as back home because of the high amount of fast food restaurants.

One of the biggest differences he has noticed was the means of transportation.

"I hate the lack of public transportation," McClurg said. "I used to be able to get a bus or a train anywhere I wanted to go back home whereas here I have to walk everywhere or rely on other people for a lift."

McClurg said that his hometown was very quiet and similar in size to Milledgeville. He lived right outside of Belfast, where went to school and traveled to often with friends.

"I hung out with my friends all the time," McClurg said about his free time. "We went into town, and we went out, just enjoyed ourselves. The usual things that a teenager would do. We played all different types of sports like soccer and rugby."

When McClurg first got to the state, he said the first thing he did was go to Burger King and ask for a large Coke, and he said that he did not expect the drink to be so big. He also has adapted the habit of saying "y'all."

McClurg said he tries to go home to see his friends and family as often as he can, but an ocean and a 25-hour-trip back can make it difficult. McClurg went home for Christmas break and plans to go back home over summer, but for spring break, he plans to go to Florida with some



Courtesy of Ben McClurg

Ben McClurg plays in a tennis tournament back home in Ireland on Jan. 8, 2018

of the other tennis players.

Nathan Connelly, a third-year mass communication student, has gotten to know McClurg through the tennis team.

"He's a good teammate, and he's fun off the court as well," Connelly said. "We have fun outside of athletics."

For freshmen tennis players, it is tradition that they get their heads shaved usually before they take their headshots for the website. Connelly said his funniest memory of McClurg was getting to shave his head and watch his reaction.

"He wasn't too happy about it, but he knew it had to happen," Connelly said. "He's always just joking around and having fun. It's been fun so far getting to know him."



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02.27.2019

ALEX JONES, SPORTS EDITOR

SPORTS

Gameplan change fuels second half of season

Taylor Keil
Staff Writer

With two regular season games remaining, the men's basketball team has secured its bid into the PBC tournament, eyeing a postseason run that will throttle them deep into the playoffs.

After an 0-4 start that included two losses by two points to USC Aiken early in the season, the Bobcats bounced back offensively and defensively.

"We have good forwards, Isaac and Kohl, obviously two of the better rebounders in the conference, as well as good guard play, with Dez [Desmond Mitchell-LaFlam] playing 39 minutes and J.T. [Jordan Thomas] playing 37 minutes a game, along with some other guys [like] Justin Cave and Chapin Rierson," said head coach Mark Gainous.

Gainous expressed that this 2019 roster is extremely versatile and balanced,

allowing for a moderate paced type of play and effective use of forwards.

While the Bobcats favored man-to-man defense early in the season, they were losing some tough games, so the strategy began to shift.

"I made the decision at the break to play more zone defense, but not your traditional zone," Gainous said. "More like a match-up zone defense where somebody has the ball at all times."

This special defense type incorporates man-to-man principles but is still considered zone-defense-style play. The use of "triangle and two" as well as the standard 1-1-3 zone defense has enabled the Bobcats to keep opponents offenses at bay.

Gainous said that every player on the roster has been instrumental to this successful 15-11 season.

"With Kohl comes size and skill," Gainous said. "He's 6-foot-7 and the biggest player we have on our team. He rebounds the ball

at such a high rate. [Then] you have Isaac who is a great rebounder and great passer."

Senior Isaac Thomas is known for being extremely well-rounded. He is the only player, according to GC athletic director Al Weston, that is in the Top 10 in GC history in points, rebounds, steals, assists and blocked shots.

Sophomore Chapin Rierson is also a standout player on the Bobcat basketball team, Gainous said.

"[Rierson] is very dependable," Gainous said. "He can get hot from three and is very smart. He can make shots, drive the ball pretty well and is very consistent."

Some nights, Rierson will go off for 15 or 20 points which spurs the team's success. The 6-foot-5 athlete can also play both the guard and forward position, or whatever the team needs at the time.

Jordan Thomas is the Bobcat's leading scorer and an accurate shooter, while Desmond Mitchell-LaFlam leads the team in assists and can make the three-point shot at a high percentage.

"Everybody brings something a little bit different to the table," Gainous said.

The second matchup against Clayton State was considered a big win for GC as it settled them in a safe spot within the conference, while the Flagler game was the biggest of the year because at that point, the Bobcats had nine wins, Flagler had five and there were only four games left. The Bobcats made sure Flagler could not mathematically pass them in the standings. "Everytime they [the



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Jordan Thomas flies high for a dunk against Augusta on Feb. 16, 2019



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Chapin Rierson shoots a three-pointer on Feb. 16

team] have lost a game, they always bounce back and are very resilient," Gainous said.

In preparation for the tournament the team is working on free-throw shooting as a whole, while three-point percentage, shooting percentage and minimizing turnovers remain their strengths.

"I think we are playing well, and while I don't think we have hit our stride yet, we're not at our peak, so that's good," said Thomas. "Hopefully, we'll hit the peak while

we're in the tournament, not before or not at all."

A moment Thomas said he won't forget is when the Bobcats beat nationally ranked UNC Pembroke on Saturday, Jan. 12.

"It was a very fun night," Thomas said. "The crowd was into it, I dunked the ball four times, so I had eight points on all dunks. It was memorable overall."

Thomas said that the team's goal is to advance beyond the PBC tournament and into the NCAA tournament.

Desmond Mitchell-La-

Flam, the Bobcats leader in assist, said his technique is making sure he gets to the ball on time when players are in scoring position.

LaFlam said his highlight memory of the season was when the Bobcats came back from a 19 point deficit at halftime, beating Columbus State by remaining focused and not worrying about the score.

"We have to be resilient," LaFlam said. "The biggest thing is getting stops on defense because we can score, we just have to focus on defense."

Women's basketball preps for postseason run

Catherine James
Staff Writer

"Fearless confidence," a term coined by head coach Maurice Smith, is what has driven the women's basketball team this season.

"This is a team that's

been together through some tough times, which is a great quality," Smith said. "It's just a positive team. They always have an optimistic spirit, which I love about this team."

The Bobcats have certainly experienced many ups and downs this season with four top players cur-

rently injured as the team sits at seventh place in the Peach Belt Conference. This season alone, the team has suffered from as many as six injuries at one time.

"This has been a surprise season. We're not making excuses, but we've been hit with injuries like we've never been hit before," Smith said. "We've been learning how to adapt. We actually have to play a different style of basketball right now. We're kind of a different team."

While a string of injuries can sometimes tear down even the strongest of teams, the Bobcats have used these letdowns to not only motivate them on the court, but to also build them up as a team off the court.

Jasmine McSwain, a senior and the team's small forward/guard has led her teammates well in her first season here at GC since transferring from Georgia Southwestern. McSwain averages 4.4 rebounds per game.

"We pride ourselves in being together and being one," McSwain said. "Even though we may have trials and tribulations as far as injuries, we still uplift each other. The team has deter-



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Harper Vick drives in the lane against Augusta University on Feb. 16, 2019

mined that they need at least one win from the next five games in order to make it into the PBC tournament, and they are confident they will meet this goal. Earning a spot in the PBC is common for the Bobcats, as they have gone every year for the last five years straight.

"Just to make it to the tournament I would say we need to at least win

one game, but we want to be playing well going into the tournament so we can have some confidence," Smith said.

Smith explained that one key improvement the team has been working on is defense. The team has seen a noticeable increase in its defensive abilities since the beginning of the season.

Freshman Harper Vick, a point guard with an aver-

age of 4.9 points per game, has worked hard for herself and her team and has taken the term "fearless confidence" to heart during her first season at GC.

"There's always something to improve," Vick said. "For every game, there's a different game plan, but we've just been focusing in on playing with fearless confidence and staying focused on that plan."



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Dail Adaway fights for a tough layup on Feb. 16

SPORTS

Golf team building strong foundation with freshmen

Sara Marchman
Staff Writer

Wind or shine, the GC golf team can be found out on the course. The golf team practices five days a week with two to three hours on the driving range. “I expect the team to compete in every compe-

tion, and why not win a few?” said junior Drew Duffie, a business major. The team looks forward to competing in Valdosta as well as the home tournament near Lake Oconee, hoping the long days of practice will result in a trip to regionals and eventually nationals. “Everything will fall into place,” said ju-

nior Austin Mancilla, an accounting major. The team this year is young, with six of the 11 team members being underclassmen. Both Duffy and Mancilla said they believe next year is going to be the year for the team. However, according to head coach Patrick Garrett the underclassman are loaded with

talent and have the ability to make a big impact on the course this year. “Two of our stars [Duffy and Mancilla] are only juniors,” Garrett said. “Duffy acts as the comic relief while Mancilla is intense, but both are equally as passionate about the sport.” Compared to last season, the team has scored ninth out of 15 teams and

12th out of 15 at the Matlock Collegiate Classic. Last season, the Bobcats scored second out of eight teams at the UNG tournament, not scoring below eighth place all season. Having placed second place at the UNG tournament, the Bobcats ready for what’s to come, such as their home tournament in March. With the home course

advantage, the team plans to use that factor to propel themselves into nationals. For the five upcoming tournaments, the Bobcats expect to compete their best and eventually secure a PBC championship before moving on to contend on the national level.



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Austin Mancilla hits a shot out of the bunker last season at The Griffin Invitational on Sept. 18, 2017



Courtesy of GC Sports Information

Drew Duffie watches his iron shot on Sept. 18, 2017

WEEKEND SCOREBOARD

GC BASKETBALL AT NORTH GEORGIA

MEN'S

GC

UNG

WOMEN'S

GC

UNG

BASEBALL – 3 GAMES VS. YOUNG HARRIS

GAME 1

CANCELLED

GAME 2

CANCELLED

GAME 3

GC

YHC

SOFTBALL – 5 GAMES AT THE FLORIDA TECH INVITATIONAL

GAME 1

GC

PALM BEACH

GAME 2

GC

BARRY

GAME 3

GC

LYNN

GAME 4

GC

BARRY

GAME 5

GC

#14 FLA. TECH

ARTS & LIFE

Couples

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

have to let go of the life you have planned in order to find the life that's waiting for you." The couple met during undergraduate school at the University of Missouri before moving to Georgia to complete graduate school. McClure and Turner have now been married for 17 years and have a 14-year-old son named Will. Although they planned on returning to Missouri after only two years of school, the pair has remained in Georgia. Also, despite not fully planning on working in a professorial role, the couple has been working at GC for about 13 years. "A faculty position is

really the best of both worlds," McClure said. "I love my work. I think it feeds me and makes me a better person and partner to be in a job that's so intrinsically rewarding." The two have had an especially unique experience working in the same school given that their last names differ. While serving as an adviser for outdoor education, Turner once had a student who was expressing disinterest in a class offered by McClure, not knowing that the two are married. "He said he wanted to take a sociology class, but not with Dr. McClure... so I laughed and said, 'Do you mean this Dr. McClure?' and turned the picture on my desk

around," Turner said. Having experienced similar situations before, Turner and McClure remain lighthearted. These couples work hard to maintain a balanced life while working with their spouses, and now they can offer advice for work life and marriage in general. "Life throws curveballs... it's easier with another person, just don't take them too seriously," Justin Roush said. McClure advised, "Save the best of yourself for the people you love the most." The Manrodt's advice, though simple, resonated through each of the conversations: "When it comes to marriage," Karl said, "always listen to your wife."



Courtesy of Stephanie McClure
Stephanie McClure and Jeff Turner met at the University of Missouri

Ceramics class showcases floral vases

McClaine Wellem
Staff Writer

The students of Sandra Trujillo's Ceramics I class showcased their hand-crafted bud and bouquet vases at the Marlor house on Thursday, Feb. 14. Only given the first few weeks of the semester to prepare for the show, the students dug into their creativity to create a maximum of eight pieces. However, since it was some of their first times working with ceramics, not only did some of them crack under the pressure, but so did several of their vases. "If you ever get the chance, definitely take some type of ceramics class; it's pretty therapeutic," said senior Jennifer Lariosa, an exercise science major. "I'm not an art major, but I love to put effort into my work, especially if it's going to be my name on it." All eight of Lariosa's pieces made it into the show unscathed by the fiery wrath of the kiln. She spent extra time explaining how they were made just right so they wouldn't break. "I feel more free when I am in this class than I do in most," Lariosa said. "It's like English [versus] math. You can read and interpret things a million

different ways in English, but for math there is only one answer. In art, what ever you feel, you make." With the exception of a few templates, students were left with little boundaries and lots of creative freedom. The only rule was that the vases would have to be able to hold water. "It's interesting because all the pots are different, but we all had the same instructions," said junior Alix Williams, a graphic design major. Leah Kaminer, a junior psychology major, said she has developed a passion for ceramics over the past few years, starting in high school. Kaminer plans to continue working with ceramics after this class ends because she feels that it can be meditative. "You can get lost doing it," Kaminer said. "You can start something, and before you know it two hours have gone by, and you've made something, but it was such a smooth process you don't even realize." Since coming to GC, Kaminer has declared a minor in art therapy in hopes that arts, which is now just a hobby, can turn into a career in the future. The students of Ceramics I plan on having more showcases later on in the semester.



Students in Sandra Tujilo's Ceramics I class displayed their botanical vases at the Marlor house on Feb. 14

McClaine Wellem / Staff Writer

ARTS & LIFE

Writers Series hosts award-winning authors



Madison Miles / Staff Photographer

Pam Houston read an excerpt from her most recent book “Deep Creek: Finding Hope in the High Country” on Feb. 19

Sydney Wilson
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, the MFA Program hosted authors Peter Nichols and Pam Houston for its Visiting Writers Series, an event that has been bringing published authors to GC since 1998. Houston shared a chapter from her newest work, “Deep Creek: Finding Hope in the High Country.” Nichols read a chapter of his current project, a nonfiction novel about whaling wives and also shared a chapter from “Rocks,” his newest work.

Nichols has written six novels so far, two of which are in development to become TV series and one which has been nominated for the Dublin IMPAC Literary Award. In addition to writing, Nichols has also taught creative writing at several universities at an international level, worked in advertising in London and screenwriting in Los Angeles and spent some time as a shepherd in Wales. Houston lives 9,000 feet above sea-level, as she described, in Colorado. She has written three novels, two collections of short stories and a collection of essays. Her works have won three literary awards, in-

cluding the Western States Book Award. Houston is also a co-founder for the literary non-profit organization Writing by Writers. “I really enjoyed both authors,” said senior Emily Ballesteros, a creative writing major. “I usually don’t really get into a writer’s reading just because there’s a plethora of different styles and genres, but I loved their perspectives on essential loneliness and how nature inspired their work.” The mastermind behind the Visiting Writers Series is Peter Selgin, an English professor here at GC and a personal friend of Peter Nichols. Selgin, though, said he couldn’t

have done it all by himself. “All members of the Creative Writing faculty take part in the selection process,” Selgin said. “It’s a group process. Each of us suggests a name or two or three. Then we get together to weight the pros and cons of each author.” Also involved in the planning of the Visiting Writers Series are the MFA graduate students who provide the authors with transportation and introduce the authors before their reading. This year, Morgan Coyner and Pooja Desai had the honor of introducing Nichols and Houston. While the Visiting Writers Series is large-

ly geared toward English majors, the event is open to the whole campus. “Mostly English majors would be interested for sure, but I’d recommend them to anyone I knew that liked to write or was passionate about reading,” Ballesteros said. Around 54 people were in attendance on Tuesday, including graduate students, undergraduates and professors, which is an average turn out compared to previous years. Though with better advertisement, English Department interim chair and professor John Sirmans said the event could draw a larger crowd. The Visiting Writers

Series typically has three events in the spring and three events in the fall, with as many as eight writers in total, which means there are two more chances to listen to some truly excellent authors this semester. “The Visiting Writers series is extremely valuable to our students and to our faculty,” Sirmans said. “In some instances, the writers attend creative writing classes to share wisdom with our students, but the experience of meeting famous authors and hearing them read and tell of their lives is both inspiring and educational.

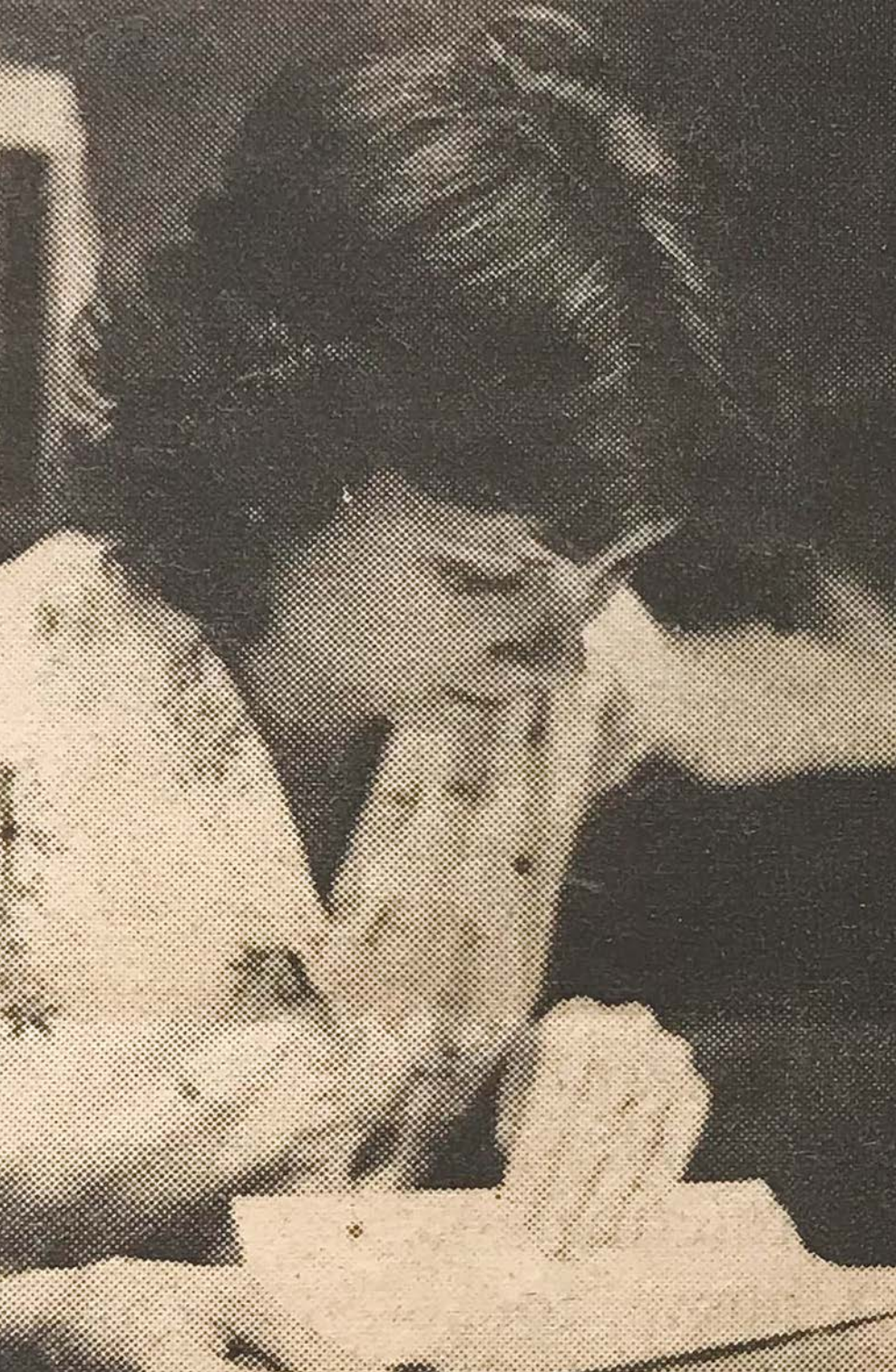


Madison Miles / Staff Photographer

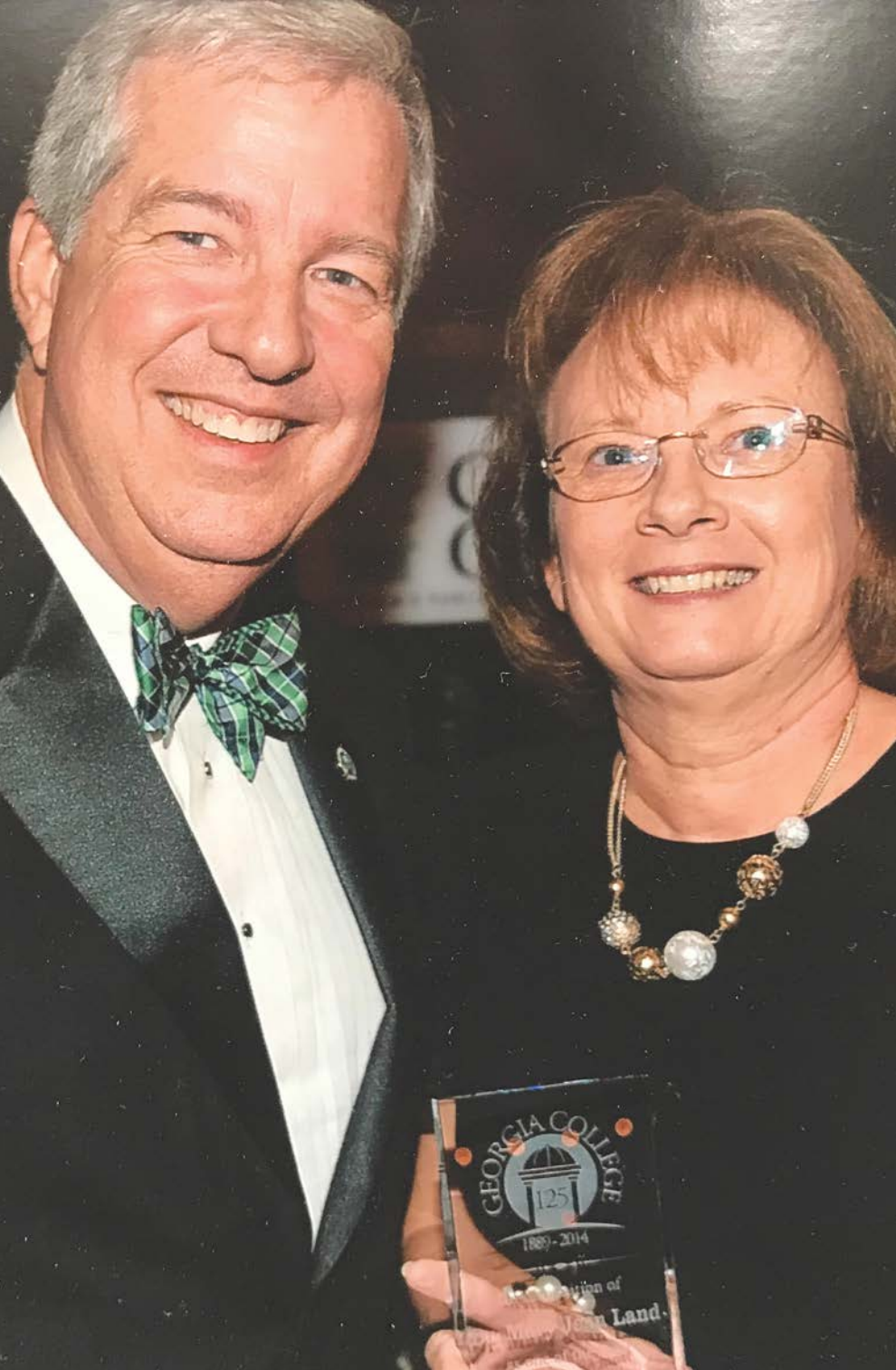
Author Peter Nichols reads from his current nonfiction project to the audience of the Visiting Writer’s Series on Feb.19

ARTS & LIFE

Mary Jean Land: 35 years in the making



Courtesy of Mary Jean Land
Mary Jean Land featured in a GC newspaper article about her start at GC



Courtesy of Mary Jean Land
President Steve Dorman and Mary Jean Land pose for a photo together in 2014

McClaine Wellem
Staff Writer

GC celebrated the 35th anniversary of Dr. Mary Jean Land’s GC tenure on Feb. 8 during the State of the University ceremony.

Land, who is chair of the Department of Communication, has watched GC transform before her eyes, remaining constant as presidents, students, faculty and friends have changed over the years. She remembers when GC was once a school that seemed to have an open door policy in terms of admittance and watching it blossom into the competitive academic institution it is currently.

Land plans to retire in July. However, she will continue working part-time for another year, until the re-opening of Terrell Hall.

“It’s going to be hard to imagine my life without GC,” Landsaid. “A lot of my good friends are here; my mental stimulation is here. It’s just truly a great job.”

Land came to GC at the age of 23 with an undergraduate degree in English education from Tift College. While living on Lake Sinclair with her husband and pursuing her master’s at the University of Georgia in journalism, Land saw that GC had an opening for a part-time position.

Entering the department when journalism was only

offered as a minor, she saw a need. Within months, GC established a journalism major, led by Land herself.

Land has come along way since her days of student teaching, growing the mass communications department, which graduated six students its first year in 1984, to now include around 350 mass communications majors.

“The first time I student taught, I had to leave the room to get ushered into another room where I was instructed to

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It’s going to be hard to imagine my life without GC. A lot of my good friends are here; my mental stimulation is here. It’s just truly a great job.

— Mary Jean Land

— “ —

put my head between my legs because I was about to pass out,” Land said.

Being only 25-years-old when in charge of The Colonnade, Land has continued to be an instrumental part of several student media organizations over the past 35 years. She has been the adviser to the radio station and started GC360, which was called Milledgeville Update at the time.


“Mary Jean makes me stop and remember a ques-

tion she always asked me in college: ‘What are you in such a hurry for?’ said GC alumnus Keith Resseau. “Slow down and take advantage of the opportunities you have instead of rushing through them. I use what I learned from her every single day. She had confidence in my talent when I didn’t, and her encouragement and friendship extended well beyond the years I spent at GC.”

Land spoke with endearment for the students she has had the privileged to teach and encourage over the past several years. She recalled memories of taking students to Atlanta and New York and said she continues to tell stories about connecting with past students on Facebook and bumping into them in person, always thrilled to hear about the people they have become.

“It breaks my heart that Dr. Land is retiring,” said junior Maddie Hughes, a mass communications major. “I admire her advocacy for her students and how such a little lady carries a lot of fight. She will be missed by all of us, and I wish her the best.”

Land plans to spend her retirement learning how to fish, going on trips to Vegas with her four sisters and soaking in every last minute with her beautiful grandchildren, while still having GC in the back of her mind.



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